

to get back to serving the American people.

RECOGNIZING MAXIM SKRIPNIK AND GOSTOMEL ANIMAL SHELTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize Maxim Skripnik and the Gostomel Animal Shelter, an amazing individual and an amazing organization.

The Gostomel Animal Shelter, located just outside of Kiev, Ukraine, is serving homeless animals in Ukraine, both in Kiev and outside.

As the co-chair of the Ukraine Caucus here in Congress, Madam Speaker, I recently visited that country, and one of my many stops was at the Gostomel Shelter. This was originally established by the Kyiv Society for the Protection of Animals. For the past 20 years, the Gostomel Shelter has rescued abandoned animals off the streets of Ukraine, nursed them back to health, and gave them a second chance at life.

The shelter is operated by Maxim, who graciously gave me a tour of the facility during my visit to Ukraine. Maxim has devoted his entire life to providing care for these vulnerable animals.

Madam Speaker, there are an estimated 50,000 stray animals on the streets of Ukraine. This poses a considerable risk to the welfare of the animals and the overall public health of the community. The future for the majority of these vulnerable and abandoned animals is bleak, but the Gostomel Shelter provides them with the opportunity to find a loving forever home.

Since its inception, the Gostomel Shelter has advocated for their animals and promoted humane methods of controlling the ever-growing population of stray animals. Each victory, no matter how small, creates an environment more accepting of these vulnerable animals and proves that they can be rehabilitated and adopted into loving families.

The shelter, which is housed in a former cowshed, provides safekeeping for up to 700 stray and abandoned dogs and cats. In 2006, the shelter established a veterinary hospital and rehabilitation center, which is now one of the largest in all of Ukraine. Here, homeless animals are sterilized, after which they undergo compulsory rehabilitation in a hospital and return to the shelter where they await their forever homes.

Madam Speaker, the Gostomel Shelter, Maxim, and KSPA do not have reliable sources of funding and permanent employees. They often rely on public donations and volunteers to provide food and medicine to the animals.

During my visit, I witnessed firsthand how Maxim and these volunteers

work tirelessly, literally around the clock, to ensure these innocent animals have a second chance.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the incredible work being done by Maxim and all the volunteers of the shelter. I paid a visit to the mayor of Kiev to relay all of my experiences and the positive impact that Maxim and those volunteers are making, and I wanted to formally recognize them here in this Chamber.

CLIMATE IS MORE LIVABLE THAN EVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, while climate catastrophists claim that our climate is less livable than ever because of fossil fuels, it is actually more livable than ever, thanks to our fossil fuel powered climate protection systems.

When you hear the scary claims about a climate crisis, keep in mind that climate catastrophists, or alarmists as they are now known, have been claiming climate crisis for about 40 years.

If America tries to rapidly eliminate fossil fuel use through a Green New Deal or Biden climate plan, we will not prevent a crisis. We will cause a crisis by making energy completely unreliable and unaffordable for American industry and American consumers, especially the middle-income and lower income folks.

Now, what isn't pointed out very often in all this talk about carbon dioxide being a pollutant is that carbon dioxide is 0.04 percent of our atmosphere. Most people think it is some big number like 20, 30, 40, 50 percent of our atmosphere. Nitrogen, number one, is 78 percent; oxygen, number two, 21 percent. CO₂ is not even in third place. Argon is, 0.93 of 1 percent.

Some of these pie charts you would look at on the internet would have carbon dioxide mixed in with other trace gases—other, okay?

So, we are at 0.04 percent. It is an extremely small amount of our atmosphere. Now, you would think, again, with the alarmism going on, that it is a high percentage that is poisoning all of us. Carbon is a building block of most of what we have on this planet, carbon life forms, right?

We are chasing down this path, I think, because of an agenda that is a lot different than the climate itself, especially when you see the folks that are pushing it the hardest still flying to all their Paris rallies and this and that in private jets, not living their lives any different, other than what normal people do.

Coming back to the fossil fuel portion of it, it would be worth it, so the alarmists say, to lower CO₂ levels and avoid a crisis. But the U.S. causes less than one-sixth of all global emissions, and that number is even going lower.

President Trump pulled us out of the Paris accord, yet the United States is still leading the way on lowering its CO₂ production anyway. It has a lower net number than before, without an accord. The other countries in the developing world, in the Third World, in the Eastern Bloc, whatever, are still increasing their numbers, building new coal-powered plants in China—one a week, some crazy number like that.

We are supposed to adhere to that in this country and curb our production and curb our economy, even though we are leading the way in cleaner technology, cleaner-burning automobiles and trucks, cleaner-burning power plants.

It is so crazy that in my home State of California, for example, when we look at the type of electricity production that comes from green power sources, the environmentalists are trying to get rid of them. We had two nuclear-powered plants in California. They already closed one, San Onofre, down by San Diego, and then one in San Luis Obispo. Those two themselves are responsible, at their peak production, for somewhere around 16, 18, even 20 percent of the whole grid of California. Imagine knocking out 20 percent of the grid in that short amount of time and trying to replace it with more politically correct green power.

It is hard to get the permits to do the politically correct green power, such as making tens of thousands of acres covered with solar cells or windmills, but nonetheless, we are hellbent on that direction.

At the same time, they want to get rid of the use of natural gas and propane to power people's stoves, power people's water heaters, things like that, and have them go electric. They are hellbent on changing cars into being electric powered by 2035, no more combustion engine cars, all because of this 0.04 percent.

What are we doing here? It is a political agenda.

Indeed, every committee in this new Congress has to spend a good portion of their time not talking about whether it is childcare, agriculture, or finance. They have to run it all through a climate change filter before we can move on to the work that needs to be done.

Coming back to California, we sometimes have public safety power shut-offs, they call it, because we have an issue of trees that might fall onto power lines or branches that the wind might catch and blow into power lines. Right here is an example of three fires that have happened in northern California in the last couple of years.

□ 1215

This one here is the current Dixie fire. I am using an older poster, because I am cheap, but this is now, instead of 100,000 acres, a million acres. It would come all the way up here past Mount Lassen.

What is the CO₂ equation here of unmanaged forests? We need to manage

forests, so we don't make all the CO₂ and have all the fire and soot and ash that blows all the way back to the East Coast. This CO₂ this is deceptive, and we need to think differently.

THE NATIONAL DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. GREENE of Georgia) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to address the 117th Congress and talk about our national debt.

Currently, we are at \$28,809,752,000,000. The numbers are rising so fast, I couldn't name them all. It is continuing to rise, yet we are considering a budget this week at \$4.3 trillion, which would be the most expensive piece of legislation in United States history, which is mind-boggling, especially considering the fact that we also are looking at voting on a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill that is mostly socialism, giving things away for free and wasting the taxpayers' dollars.

Considering the fact that we just abandoned Americans in Afghanistan, armed the Taliban, and 13 of our own military were killed in the process, we also just let in tens of thousands of Haitians into our country through our southern border, which is wide open and out of control. Also on Friday, the Democrats, all except one, voted for full-term abortion and called it women's healthcare, then celebrated on the Capitol steps, which most people in this country find appalling.

You see, abortion up until full term for a baby, at 9 months pregnancy, is evil and something that this Congress should have never considered. Yet, unfortunately, that is the bill that passed the House on Friday.

So now we are looking at \$4.3 trillion in new spending; \$2.1 trillion in higher taxes; \$2.4 trillion in new debt, with more interest; and \$7.5 billion for a Civilian Climate Corps, which is part of the Green New Deal. Government doesn't need to be creating a climate police force; government needs to be getting out of the way of the American people and their businesses so that they don't have to compete with the Federal Government to hire people to get back to work.

Businesses all over the country are struggling to find people to work in their companies. We need truck drivers. We need nurses.

We need to stop vaccine mandates and silly rules requiring people to wear masks everywhere they go and children to wear masks. If vaccines work, then people who get them should trust them. And if people are still afraid, then they can wear a mask. And if they are still afraid, then they can shelter in place. But the rest of the healthy population in the United States should not be limited and held back. We should be able to go to work, go to school, go into restaurants and stores,

without being shamed and divided among the American people.

COVID-19 has been a terrible thing sent to us through China and actually funded, sadly, through the gain-of-function research through our own Federal Government at the will of Dr. Fauci. Yet, he still has his job, while hundreds of thousands of small businesses have failed, and they don't have their jobs.

This government is failing the American people, and the more votes we take this week we are going to continue to fail the American people.

This is why I walked in here this morning to make a motion to adjourn. But then I was told I couldn't make a motion to adjourn because we hadn't said the prayer or the pledge. It is very unfortunate. We should make a motion to adjourn because Congress should stop. Congress is the one ruining the lives of the American people, not helping them, like they claim to do.

It is our Federal Government's role to keep our border strong, safe, and secure.

It is our government's role to never abandon Americans in a foreign country ruled by radical Islamic terrorists that would like to kill them just because they are Americans.

It is not our Federal Government's job to pass a bill or consider even making a law, abortion up until full term, and then call it women's healthcare. This is too much. It is out of control.

So, simply, I would like to make a motion to adjourn. I think it is silly that I can't do so as an elected member of Congress representing the 14th District of Georgia simply because we haven't said the pledge or the prayer.

As you can see, rules in Congress just don't work because the rules here in Congress are allowing everything to continue to go downhill and hurt the people that pay the taxes and pay for all of this up here anyway.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we pray for Your shalom, Your peace for our world, for our Nation, our communities, and our families.

In You, we find all that we need to be whole and well. In You, we are grounded in truth, that we would show integrity and honesty. In You, we are given purpose, a vision of what it means to dwell in harmony.

In Your peace, we have all that we need to live and thrive.

So if we align ourselves to Your paradigm of peace, grant us then Your favor. If we humble ourselves, grant us success in our endeavors to do Your will. If we trust in You, give us a wealth of confidence in our abilities to carry out Your intent. If we follow Your guidance, prosper us with Your bounteous grace that we would experience the certainty of Your blessing.

Then may our world, our Nation, our communities, and our families receive that blessing this day.

In the peace of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KIM of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Saturday, September 25, 2021:

H.R. 5293, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes;

S. 189, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2021, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes;

S. 1828, to amend the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 to authorize the provision of payment to personnel of the Central Intelligence Agency who incur qualifying injuries to the brain, to authorize the provision of payment to personnel of the Department of State who incur similar injuries, and for other purposes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair